

“Who Will Bell The Cat?”

By

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Greetings

TO THE NAACP ANNUAL CONVENTION

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committed to our cause. We've got to fight, although we have to cry. We've got to hold up the blood-stained banner of justice. We've got to hold it up until we die.

Yes, we belled the CAT of unequal schools with the Brown vs Board of Education decision. Thurgood Marshall was the greatest civil rights lawyer in history.

Yes, we belled the CAT of segregated public transportation when Rosa Parks, secretary of the Montgomery Chapter of the NAACP, sat that we might stand.

Yes, we testified 70 years against lynching

Yes, we belled the CAT in the (Dr. Ossian) Sweet case. With Clarence Darrow as our lawyer, we proved a Black man could defend his own home., even though it resulted in the death of a white man.

Yes, we destroyed restrictive covenant (you couldn't buy a house unless you were white).

Yes, we conquered the Navy (where, for over 50 years, we could not serve as a sailor) and provided Samuel L. Gravely, Jr., the 1st African American to command not only a warship, but a U. S. Fleet. We also provided 4 Star Admiral Joseph Paul Reason and Rear Admiral Lillian Elaine Fishburne.

Yes, we conquered the Army (which, in 1940, had not had a single Black General) and produced such notables as General Colin Powell,

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Benjamin O. Davis, Sr. and Daniel Chappie James, Jr. We even flew the friendly skies with General Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. and Jesse L. Brown. We belled CATS on the land, sea and in the air!

Yes, we belled the CAT of unequal treatment by unions in the early days, with A. Phillip Randolph leading the struggle. Now, they are among our strongest allies.

Prior to the historic election of 2008, people were saying we could never bell the CAT of having a Black President. But a strong man spoke out and said, "Yes, we can!". Barack Obama belled that CAT. How happy some of the early pioneers would be if they were alive to see Barack Obama, a Black man, and his beautiful wife, Michelle, a Black woman, serving as our President and First Lady and living in the White House with their two beautiful daughters.

Jim Brown, Kirk Flood, Arthur Ashe, Magic Johnson, John Hope Franklin, Patricia Harris, Hazel O'Leary, Hazel Dukes, Marsha Maxwell, Dorothy Height, Althea Simmons, Oprah Winfrey, Robert Johnson, Percy Sutton, Martin Luther King, Frances Hooks, Roy Wilkins, James Weldon Johnson, Ruby Hurley, Mary Ovington, Shiloday, the Spingarn Brothers, Mary McLeod Bethune, Clarence Mitchell, Juanita Jackson Mitchell, Patricia Harris, Mildred Bond Roxborough, Charles Hamilton Houston, Mordecai Johnson, Bill Coleman, Constance Baker Motley, Elaine Jones, Lawrence Douglas Wilder, Stevie Wonder, Julian Bond, Andrew Young, Rosalyn Brock, Nelson Mandela, Jesse Turner, Bishop William Graves, Anna Aponte Curtis, and Ben Hooks have all belled CATS. We must now support, with all our vigor, our new CEO, Ben Jealous, as he confronts the CATS of his time.

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Well NAACP of today, are there no more CATS to bell, no foes for us to face?

Must we be carried to the skies

On flowery beds of ease

While others fought to win the prize

And sailed through bloody seas?

Fight on, not with bullets, bombs, and swords, but with truth, justice, and righteousness on your side. Fight on until the CATS of apathy, ignorance, poverty, and prejudice are belled. Fight on! Fight on! Fight on!

Yes, NAACP, there still are CATS to bell. Think of all the famous stars and athletes who have made millions and refuse to help the Black community. The talk show host who publicly stated he wanted President Barack Obama to fail. The NAACP has already started to bell the Supreme Court CAT that is trying to turn back the clock. Clarence Thomas is there but we need someone not only to represent the interests of all Americans, but someone who also recognizes that Blacks and other minorities have suffered disproportionately. We need to bell the CAT of those who say President Obama is not a United States citizen. We need to bell the CAT of late day loans and misguided mortgage counselors that are robbing us of our financial resources.

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**My mother and father were soldiers
They had their hands on the gospel plow
One day they got tired and threw it to us
And said, "Struggle on 'til you die".**

The jail house can't lock us out! The billy clubs can't beat us out! The dynamite can't bomb us out! The fire hoses can't wash us out! The dogs can't bite us out! The mob can't throw us out!

My brothers and sisters, as I close today, let us stop fighting with one another and start working with one another. Let us not antagonize one another but love one another. Let us not point fingers of division and discord at each other. Rather, let us band together, moving toward a better America. When we move forward, when we say God bless America, let us mean it! When we say, "Land where my parents died, let us mean black, white, yellow, brown, male, female, Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, or all others who believe in the ultimate justice and power of God and those who believe in rights and justice for all regardless of religious affiliation. We shall either stand together as brothers and sisters or perish separately as fools.

Then shall the kingdoms of this world, the City of New York and everywhere else become the kingdom of God. God shall reign and we shall rejoice. Not in a utopian vision but a practical design. That the words of Lincoln shall endure: "that a government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth"!

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Let's fight on until justice runs down like waters and righteousness as a mighty stream. Let's fight on until there is no down-sizing, until there is no glass ceiling. Let's fight on until God shall gather the four winds of heaven; until the angel shall plant one foot on the sea and the other on dry land and declare that time that has been will be no more. Fight on, until the lion shall lie down with the lamb. Fight on, until justice, righteousness, hope, equality and opportunity is the birthright of all Americans.

Fight on until God shall say,

“Winds, blow no more!

Rains, fall no more!

Thunder, roar no more!

Lightning, flash no more!

Waves of the sea, be still!”

Soldiers of the NAACP, come in and make your report. Join the coronation ceremonies when we crown Christ Lord of all!

Fight on! Pray on! Struggle on!

We haven't finished belling the CAT!!!